

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A system for enabling electronic commerce, said system comprising a network host, wherein the network host is adapted to provide a service to a network client using a network, wherein the service is provided in exchange for payment resolved by a financial resolution center connected to the network, ~~and~~ wherein the network host and the network client are network members, ~~and~~ wherein identities of the network members are known only to the financial resolution center.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network members are determined by the financial resolution center.

Claim 3 (original): The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network client and the network host maintain financial accounts with the financial resolution center.

Claim 4 (original): The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network comprises a heterogeneous network.

Claim 5 (original): The system as recited in claim 4, wherein the heterogeneous network comprises a network of computational devices.

Claim 6 (original): The system as recited in claim 4, wherein the heterogeneous network is absent information sent thereacross for maintaining secure access thereto.

Claim 7 (original): The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the network of computational devices comprises a network of multiple platforms.

Claim 8 (original): The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the financial resolution center comprises a computational device.

Claim 9 (original): The system as recited in claim 8, wherein the financial resolution center comprises:

a processor;

a storage device;

a certificate authority program, wherein the certificate authority program is adapted to provide network membership; and

an accounting program, wherein the accounting program is adapted to reconcile network member accounts.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the financial resolution center further comprises a monitoring program, and wherein the monitoring program is adapted to track and record financial activities of the network ~~member~~ members.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the network ~~member~~ comprises members comprise an agent, wherein ~~an the~~ agent is adapted to execute a process, and wherein providing a ~~the~~ service comprises executing a the process.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the financial resolution center is further adapted to extend credit to the network members.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The system as recited in claim 10, wherein the accounting program is further adapted to reconcile financial accounts for the network members.

Claim 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method of enabling electronic commerce, said method comprising:

administering financial accounts for a network client and a network host, wherein the network client and the network host are network members;

receiving a financial charge from the network host;

assigning the charge to the network client;

resolving the charge; and

maintaining confidentiality as to ~~the~~ an identity of the network client and the network host.

Claim 16 (original): The method as recited in claim 15, further comprising assigning network membership.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 16, wherein assigning the network membership comprises issuing authentication identifiers.

Claim 18 (original): The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the authentication identifiers comprise a public/private key pair.

Claim 19 (original): A computer-usable carrier medium, comprising first programming instructions executable on a computational device for presenting a financial charge to a financial resolution center, wherein the financial charge is levied against a network client, and wherein the network client remains unknown to the computational device.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A computer-usable carrier medium, comprising:

first programming instructions executable on a computational device for receiving a financial charge from a network host;

second programming instructions executable on the computational device for assigning the financial charge to a network client; and

third programming instructions executable on the computational device for resolving the financial charge; and

fourth programming instructions executable on the computational device for maintaining confidentiality as to an identity of the network client and the network host.

Claim 21 (cancelled):

Claim 21, second occurrence (cancelled, re-presented below to correct numbering)

Claim 22 (currently amended): The carrier medium as recited in claim ~~21~~ 20, wherein resolving the financial charge comprises modifying ~~the~~ financial accounts for the network client and the network host.

Claim 23 (original): A computer-usable carrier medium, comprising first programming instructions executable on a computational device for receiving a financial charge from a financial resolution center, wherein the financial charge is levied against the computational device, wherein the financial charge is to be credited toward a network host, and wherein the network host remains unknown to the computational device.

Claim 24 (re-presented - formerly dependent claim 21, second occurrence): The carrier medium as recited in claim 20, further comprising fifth programming instructions executable on the computational device for maintaining financial accounts for the network host and the network client.